

B. Definitions

Many of the definitions used in this glossary were taken from Code of Iowa and the Iowa Administrative Rules of Special Education (IARSE).

actual costs – Accounting for the costs for special education based on the dollars actually expended not on an estimate. The Code of Iowa requires that when billing for tuition-in students, specialized transportation, etc., the billing is to be actual costs.

annual review or IEP meeting – The meeting held on at least an annual basis for students who have IEPs. IARSE require that certain persons attend this meeting (parent, general education teacher, special education teacher, administrator or designee) and that reasonable notice be sent to parents for the time and place of the meeting.

Area Education Agency (AEA) – Intermediary educational units in Iowa which provide special education support services, i.e. speech, physical therapy, along with providing services to identify eligible individuals in need of special education services. There are 15 AEAs in Iowa. Each district is located within and served by 1 of these AEAs.

Certified Annual Report (CAR) – A financial report each district must submit annually. The Special Education Supplement is part of the Certified Annual Report.

C.I.N.A. – Child in Need of Assistance

DHS – Department of Human Services

district developed delivery system – A district may elect to create their own system for delivering special education services. The process to develop this system is stated in the Iowa Administrative Rules of Special Education – February 2000 – 41.84(2).

eligible individual – An individual with a disability who is handicapped in obtaining an education and who is entitled to receive special education and related services.

eligibility and need - The process of answering a two pronged question. 1) Is this an individual who has a handicapping condition? If so, (2) Are they in need of special education services in order to benefit from their education?

general education interventions – Attempts to resolve presenting problems or behaviors of concern in the general education environment prior to conducting a full and individual evaluation.

Individualized Education Program (IEP) – The written record of an eligible individual's special education and related services developed in accordance with the IARSE. The IEP document records the decisions reached at the IEP meeting and sets forth in writing a commitment of resources necessary to enable the eligible individual to receive needed special education and related services appropriate to the individual's special learning needs. There is one IEP which specifies all the special education and related services for an eligible individual.

IEP team – The group of individuals specified in the IARSE that is responsible for developing, reviewing, or revise an IEP for an eligible individual.

Individual with Disabilities Education Act – 1997 (IDEA97) – The federal laws and regulations for the provision of special education.

initial placement – The first IEP meeting for an individual who has been determined to be entitled to special education services. The parents must sign permission for placement prior to the start of services.

Local Education Agency (LEA) – Local school districts.

rules-based program models - A district may choose to use the program models and delivery methods that are listed in the IARSE – 41.84(1)a.

special education support services – Specially designed instruction and activities which augment, supplement or support the educational program of eligible individuals. Support services are usually provided by the AEA but may be provided by contractual agreement, subject to the approval of the board, by another qualified agency.

state school foundation program – state aid – For a budget year, each school district in the state is entitled to receive foundation aid, in an amount per pupil equal to the difference between the amount per pupil of foundation property tax in the district, and the combined foundation base per pupil or the combined district cost per pupil, whichever is less.

Special Education Supplement (SES) – The part of the Certified Annual Report that districts must complete annually to report their district's expenditure of special education dollars.

School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) – A school budget review committee is established in the department of education and consists of the director of the department of education, the director of the department of management, and three members who are knowledgeable in the areas of Iowa school finance or public finance issues appointed by the governor to represent the public. The duties of this committee are listed in the Code of Iowa – 257.31.

supplemental aid payment – After the desk review of all special education supplements has been completed and negative balances, positive balances, carryover and reversions to the state have been finalized, the department of management will return a portion of the reverted dollars to districts with negative balances. Each district must request that supplemental aid payment from the School Budget Review Committee. The payment is made in July of the year following the reporting year, e.g. Supplemental Aid Payment for 1999-2000 year will be made in July of 2001.

Ward of Court – A child who is under the court either as a foster child or due to a termination of parental rights.